



The Rice County Genealogical Society  
408 Division Street, Northfield, Mn

Fall 1988  
Issue No.14

## MEETING DATES

November 15, 1988

Agenda: Review Old & New Business  
Report of Nominating  
Committee--Election of  
New Officers, Pay Dues  
Program: Videotape from the  
Minnesota Genealogical  
Society...Library Time

December 20, 1988

Agenda: Installation of New  
Officers, All Dues are  
Due for 1989.  
Program: Annual Christmas Party  
With Show and Tell of  
Your Christmas Past

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 17, 1989

Open, due to Possiblity of Weather

February 21, 1989

Annual Cut &amp; Past Party

Mar 21, 1988; April 18, 1989; & May 16, 1989

OFFICERS:

President.....Luana Bauer  
Vice-President....Veronica Grant  
Secretary-Treas...Carolyn Wille  
Publicity.....Harriet Hamann  
                                  Elaine Little  
Historians.....Charlene Erickson  
Editor.....John Dalby  
Newsletter Staff.....Jan Dalby  
                                  Arlene Williams

## MEETINGS:

Meetings are held the  
Third Tuesday at 7:30 pm  
in the lower level of  
The Scriver Building in  
Northfield, Mn.  
September through May.

Librarian and Research Consultant.....Betty Jane Goold  
Assisted by .....Audrey DeMann  
Cemetery Chairperson .....John Dalby

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Everything is great for the 1988-89 Society's season. We have a little in our treasury, our cemetery project is going to press in segments, our library is open for research and the restoration work at the Northfield Historical Society is complete. We have unpacked! We have agreed to work and have a booth at the National Genealogical Society's Annual Meeting in May in St. Paul. We will be having a fund raiser for this, as it will be an expense to our society.

New members and new guests are appearing at every meeting. Each brings a question or an expertise and we hope they find our society fun and challenging!

### QUOTE:

"There is something about a closet that makes a skeleton terribly restless." Wilson Mizner

This interesting quote has a lot of meaning for genealogists. Let the skeleton see the light of day and perhaps they will rest more easy. Try to keep them hidden away and they will be restless, try to break out and in general, cause trouble...thanks, Carolyn.

### MINUTES

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September Meeting, first of the year, members reported on their summer projects, their successful research and their family reunions. Elda Fuchs reported having two family reunions on her farm. Toured display on "Lives of Immigrant Children". October Meeting, started with a roll call, members were asked to give their grandmother's birthdate and other information. "T'wasn't a challenge for many! A report was given on the vast amount of destruction and vandalism at the Riverside Cemetery in Morristown. Goals were set for a cemetery project sale date of March 21 and members were encouraged again to turn in Ancestor Charts

NOTE FROM EDITOR: I went to the Riverside Cemetery on Sunday October 30, most stones have been re-erected and repaired. Some are awaiting new foundations. Good work by their cemetery association members.

## NEWS.....

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### NEWS.....OF OUR MEMBERS & FRIENDS



John Dalby is expanding his horizons...he is transcribing cemeteries in Le Sueur, Waseca, Dodge, and Dakota Counties, mostly those border ones.

Elizabeth Moe came to October's meeting looking fit and fiddle again. She wants to research at the Wisconsin Library in Madison. Anyone interested???....Lila Caron is writing about an Irish ancestor who rode with the Dalton gang. Charlene Erickson has moved to a new apartment. Carolyn Wille is feeling better and will back to the meetings.

### DID YOU KNOW.....

The United State Post Office has issued a brochure entitled "Plant a Family Tree" It gives a little basic how-to and a very nice family tree chart on a 8 1/2 X 11 paper. In the Postmaster Advocate, (July 1988) there is again a warning against the Sharon Taylor and now Elizabeth Ross schemes. The article encourages all individuals to use common sense when paying for information.

thanks... Arlene Williams.



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Red figures around the lake are mostly the lot  
Black figures in the lake are mostly the lot



## LAND RECORDS

Land records can be very difficult and confusing. There must be a simple way to conquer all those terms and legal descriptions. Let's investigate:

### THE TERMS;

Metes--land measurement, giving direction and distance

Bounds--refers to physical objects either natural or artificial which shows size and shape

Metes and Bounds system used exclusively in 13 original colonies and seven other states.

Headright--an individual could get a right to a certain acreage for each person brought to a colony, used in southern colonies to attract settlers

Plat--is a map of a tract, often showing its location in relation to land held by others,

Plat Book--usually contains a sketch of the plat of land, amount of acreage, date of warrant, legal description of land, boundaries, neighbors, location of churches, schools, cemeteries.

Land measurement terms--acre, chain, furlong, link, mile, and in metes & bounds system, perch, pole, rod and rood.

Ordinance of 1785--ordinance that started the township system, provided for the survey and sale of public lands.

Township Grid system--a system set up to use base line and meridian line

Base line--running East and West,

Meridian Line--runs North and South; townships North and South of baseline are referred to as Township, townships East and West of the meridian are called ranges.

Reception Book--a record of land transfers between grantor and grantee

Tract Book--history of a tract of land that covers all the land transactions for a piece of land

Grantor--is the person selling the land

Grantee--is the person who is buying the land, a word association game is helpful to keep them straight; the grantor has got the land, (follow the vowels o & e) and the grantee gets the deed.

### TYPES OF DEEDS:

Mortgage Deed-- on payment, a conditional transfer agreement to gain property after payment is final

Quit Claim Deed-- a person releases all title, claims, etc to a piece of property with making a warrant. WARRENT is an order for laying out of the land.

Warranty Deed--the grantor warrants the deed, or title, to the property he sells, if it is faulty the grantor or his heirs may be sued.

WHEN USING ANY LAND RECORDS BE SURE TO ASK IF THERE IS AN INDEX!

## MORE ON LAND RECORDS

Lands records are very interesting research tools. They may be the least used and the least understood that a genealogist may encounter. Many will render near blind with poor writing, faded ink and old script. Be prepared, take a magnifying glass.

What can be gleaned from a land transaction? Most records will give you the date of transaction, the type of transfer, names of grantor and grantee, some marital status, place of residence of grantor and grantee, the amount paid for the land, legal description, some witnesses and yes, even that much sought after signature or mark.

In the Rice County Recorder's Office in the Rice County Courthouse, Main Level, in Faribault, Minnesota, there is a very helpful and courteous staff. All records can be reviewed. They will make a xerox copy of a transaction for a fee. I think now it is \$1.00 for the first copy and fifty cents for each after. They can't do the researching for you, only show you how and where, the rest is up to you.

The records in this office start in 1853. The deed register start in 1853 but the mortgage entries start a bit later in 1855.

This office also holds the chattel mortgages if you are interested in knowing if your ancestor was in debt or the holder of mortgaged property.

All genealogical researchers should be familiar with land records. I have found many to give familial relationship where no other such records exist. Upon the death of a parent, the heirs went to the Recorder's Office and had the land divided among themselves. This is a common entry in the early records in Rice County. The Grantor (the deceased) transfers to his children (the Grantees) his property; it is here that we can learn of a previously unknown child or a daughter's married name. Land records fill in where probate or wills fail.

I urge you to take an ancestor whom you need to more about and try to learn where he lived, when and who were his neighbors.

I should warn you not to be confused over the \$1.00 land transfers or the five and ten acres that constantly changes hands. It is woodlots for fuel, also cranberry bogs or maple sugar bush.

JUST LIKE US, OUR ANCESTORS DID SOME STRANGE TRANSACTIONS!

### SECTION

NW 1/4	NE 1/4	Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4)	
NW 1/4	NW 1/4		
SW 1/4	SE 1/4		
NW 1/4	NW 1/4		
N 1/2 SW 1/4		West Half of So. East 1/4	East Half of So. East 1/4
SW 1/4	SE 1/4		
SW 1/4	SW 1/4		

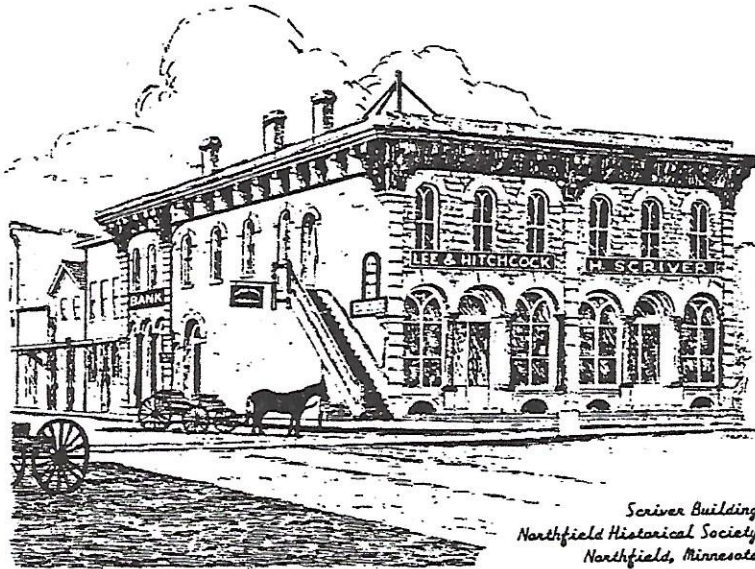
A Section Contains 640 Acres

A Quarter Section Contains  
160 Acres



## QUERIES

Ms. Vicky Krupka of Lombard, Ill wrote to us and asked for information on the following: Thomas JASAN, Katherine VOSEJJPKA, Thomas' wife, and their children Thomas, Frank, and John Francis. Family lived in Wheatland Township. The children died in the past forty years. Contact the society if you have knowledge to share.



*Scriver Building  
Northfield Historical Society  
Northfield, Minnesota*

The Scriver Building,

This building is the home, office and library of the Rice County Genealogical Society. It also contains the Northfield Historical Society.

Our RCGS meets in this building on the third Tuesday of every month, September through May, at 7:30pm.

For summer visitors and researchers, we have a society member on call.

# JOURNEY INTO YOUR PAST

National Genealogical Society • Conference in the States

17-20 May 1989

St. Paul, Minnesota

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